

### REMARKS

By the above actions, claim 14 has been amended, with the remaining claims left unchanged. In view of these actions and the following remarks, further consideration of this application is requested.

With regard to the objection to claim 14, claim 14 has been amended to eliminate the basis for the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 14-28 were rejected based on Takahashi (United States Patent 6,384,801) and DiFranza et al. (United States Patent 6,073,727). Independent claim 14, as amended, is patentable over Takahashi and DiFranza et al., alone or in combination, for the following reasons.

Takahashi (emphasis added) is directed to an information display system and method, wherein a velocity detector detects the velocity of **a person moving along a predetermined path**. A controller controls information display programs of image servers adapted for sending a series of information to **a plurality of image display devices arranged sequentially along the path in accordance with the detected velocity of the moving person**. The image display devices share with each other in displaying a series of information as a message. Each of the image display devices display a part of the series of information that is recognizable by the moving person according to the information display program. Thus, information can surely be presented to a person moving along a predetermined path, and no expensive large-size display screen is required. Accordingly, Takahashi discloses a system having a plurality of image display devices arranged sequentially along a path in accordance with a detected velocity of a moving person.

By contrast, the invention independent claim 14, as amended, includes the novel feature that display devices are **freely configurable with respect to their location**, for example, as described in the below-noted paragraph of Applicants' published application:

[0023] The display devices are preferably visibly configured in a spatial interconnection, with the coordinated visualization of the digital information being immediately visible to a viewer. For example, a plurality of display devices can be configured in a series, with specific image elements being displayed on various display devices. It is thus possible to visualize display patterns on the display devices that are disposed in a spatial interconnection. For example, at time  $t_1$ , the first, the third and the fifth display device can display a red image while a green image is visualized on the second, the fourth

and the sixth display device. At time  $t_2$ , the reverse color pattern is to be displayed on these six spatially interconnected display devices. According to a second simple example, a graphic display element, such as a red image, passes within a short time from the first to the last display device. The coordinated sequences of the display elements to be visualized and/or of a play list can be as complex as desired.

Accordingly, Takahashi fails to disclose, teach or suggest the noted features recited in claim 14 as amended, which recite in relevant part:

**\*\*\* providing a plurality of display computer devices (4), and a control computer device (3) connected to said display computer devices (4) wherein each display computer device (4) is associated with a minimum of one display device (1), and the display devices (1) are arranged in a freely configurable order with respect to location;**

DiFranza et al. is directed to an information distribution system for use in an elevator and does not cure the noted deficiencies in Takahashi. Accordingly, independent claim 14, as amended, and claims dependent therefrom are patentable over Takahashi and DiFranza et al., alone or in combination. The dependent claims are allowable over Takahashi and DiFranza et al., alone or in combination, on their own merits and at least for the reasons argued above with respect to independent claim 14 and 33.

In view of the foregoing, in the absence of new and more relevant prior art being found, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and action to that effect is requested. However, while it is believed that this application should now be in condition for allowance, in the event that any issues should remain, or an new issues arise, after consideration of this response which could be addressed through discussions with the undersigned, then the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone for the purpose of resolving any such issue and thereby facilitating prompt approval of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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